PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: R.P. Volante et al.

Int. Appln. No: PCT/US2004/015051 Case No.: 21397P

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Serial No.: (To be assigned)

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PROCESS FOR MAKING SPIROLACTONE

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

COMPOUNDS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

For:

The above identified case is a PCT application entering the US National Phase under 35 U.S.C. § 371 and Article 39(1)(a) of the Patent Cooperation Treaty. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the following amendments prior to prosecution of the subject application.

Any additional fees associated with this Amendment may be charged to Merck Deposit Account No. 13-2755.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

DATE OF DEPOSIT September 21, 2005

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DATE SERVICE AS EXPRESS MAIL "POST OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE"

ON THE ABOVE DATE IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, PO. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313-1450.

MAILED BY LILLING LANDRIA 22, 2005